



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
ON CHILD PORN CHARGE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland this morning, 47-year-old Earl Donald Bieler, Jr., of Huntsville, Texas, was sentenced to 150 months in federal prison followed by 15 years Supervised Release for transmitting images of child pornography over the Internet.

"Child pornography hurts children and can never be tolerated. The fact that this defendant thought he was talking to a 13 year old girl over the internet is a startling example of the dangers that await children online," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On December 1, 2004, in a chatroom entitled "Teen: Younger Girls Older Guys 2005", Bieler transmitted three images of nude prepubescent females to an undercover agent with the Cybercrimes Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office, who was in Midland, Texas, at the time. Bieler also sent a "webcam" image of his erect genitalia to the agent, who was pretending to be a 13 year old girl. Because Bieler stated in chat discussions that the images depicted his daughters, agents immediately confirmed his identity and executed a search warrant at his home that same night. Upon further investigation, the images were not of his daughters, but rather images he downloaded from the Internet.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt on August 17, 2005, Bieler pleaded guilty to the charge of transmitting images of child pornography over the Internet.

This case was investigated by the Cybercrimes Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen.

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